



# CITY OF BRAZIL

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT ACTS OF VANDALISM AT FOREST PARK; PARK BOARD CREATES "FRIENDS OF THE PARK" A VOLUNTEER SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

*Brazil, Indiana* Vandalism is not new in the Brazil City Parks. Neither is it funny, just childish pranks or kids being kids. It's destructive and costly to Brazil tax payers in both dollars and in time lost for usage of equipment.

The most recent acts of vandalism was last Thursday (November 16) evening when skateboarders apparently did serious damage to several park benches and tables at the pavilion. This latest occurrence has caused the Park Board, Mayor and City Police Chief to reach their limit for tolerance for this kind of behavior.

"We are fed up," said Board President Ruthann Jeffries.

Replacing benches costs \$125 and the tables are \$150 each. Also, the Park Superintendent must take time away from necessary maintenance of the parks to clean up the mess left by these destructive, thoughtless, self-satisfying vandals.

If it is skateboarders, they were given permission by the Parks Board this year to build a skate park at Craig Park; the group asking for the permission was told that the Board would let them use the ground. But the Board had no money to build the ramps so they (the group) would have to provide all the money for the venture. They agreed. The Board never saw this group again.

"We're going to take some action to protect our parks," Jeffries said, The Park Board now has people in place doing surveillance in the parks, but do to limited resources will be unable to provide funding for on-going surveillance program. The Park Board, Mayor Arthur and Brazil Police Chief Mark Loudermilk are forming a "Friends of the Parks" Neighborhood watch program. Any Clay County Citizen interested in joining the volunteer surveillance program should contact Chief Loudermilk at 812.446.2211

The perpetrators, when caught, will be charged with vandalism and criminal mischief. This will result in a fine, imprisonment, and restitution. The City will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law. If anyone sees or knows of park vandalism please call the Brazil Police.